

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of operating a transmitter to transmit a data block to a plurality of recipients selected from a plurality of receivers connected to said transmitter via a multicast-capable network, wherein said transmitter has access to one or more directories storing a plurality of lists of receiver identifiers and a multicast-address suitable for use in said multicast-capable network corresponding to each of said lists; said method comprising the steps of:

a) ~~finding a multicast address to which said data block is to be sent, said multicast address being suitable for use in said multicast capable network~~ obtaining a list of receiver identifiers, said list corresponding to the set of recipients to which said data block is to be sent;

b) examining said one or more directories to find a multicast-address corresponding to said list of receiver identifiers obtained in step a);

c) addressing said data block to said multicast address found in step b);
and

d) transmitting said data block over said multicast-capable network;
~~said method being characterised in that:~~

~~said transmitter has access to one or more directories storing:~~

~~a) a plurality of lists of receiver identifiers; and~~

~~b) for each of said lists, a multicast address suitable for use in said multicast capable network; and~~

~~said multicast address finding step comprises:~~

~~a) obtaining a list of receiver identifiers, said list corresponding to the set of recipients to which said data block is to be sent; and~~

~~b) examining said one or more directories to find a multicast address corresponding to the list of receiver identifiers obtained in step a).~~

2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein:

said obtaining step comprises:

a) receiving one or more indications that an earlier data block addressed to a selected set of receivers was not successfully received by one or more of said set of receivers; and

b) analysing said indications to generate a list of receiver identifiers, each receiver identifier in said list identifying a recipient that did not successfully receive said earlier data block.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein:

said obtaining step involves:

a) determining that a general data block is to be sent to recipients

included in one or more of a selected plurality of said lists; and

b) unifying said selected plurality of lists to find a unified list of receiver identifiers.

4. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said transmitter further has access to type data listing data block type identifiers, and a list of recipient identifiers for each data block type identifier, wherein said obtaining step involves:

a) finding a type identifier associated with said data block; and

b) examining said type data to find a list of receiver identifiers associated with said type identifier.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4 wherein said type identifier is a subject-matter identifier indicating the subject-matter to which the data in the data block relates.

6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 4 wherein said type identifier finding step involves extracting a type identifier from a data block received at said transmitter.

7. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said transmitter has access to a plurality of group directories for respective groups of receivers.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the format of said multicast address is in accordance with the Internet Protocol suite.

9. (currently amended) A transmitter operable to transmit data blocks to a set of recipient computers selected from a plurality of receiver computers connectable to said transmitter computer via a multicast-capable network, said ~~apparatus~~ transmitter comprising:

an output connectable to said multicast-capable network;

one or more processors;

a program store storing instructions executable by said one or more

processors to transmit the data block via said output over said multicast-capable network; and

one or more directories for storing a plurality of lists of receiver identifiers
and a multicast-address suitable for use in said multicast-capable network
corresponding to each of said lists;

said ~~set of instructions being executable by said one or more processors to~~
transmit the data block by:

~~finding a multicast address to which said data block is to be sent, said~~
~~multicast address being suitable for use in said multicast capable network;~~

a) obtaining a list of receiver identifiers, said list corresponding to the
set of recipients to which said data block is to be sent;

b) examining said one or more directories to find a multicast address
corresponding to said list of receiver identifiers obtained in step a);

c) addressing said data block to said multicast address; and

d) transmitting said data block over said network;

~~said transmitter being characterised by:~~

~~having access to a directory store storing:~~

~~a) list data representing lists of receiver identifiers; and~~

~~b) for each of said lists, a multicast address suitable for use in said~~

multicast capable network; and

~~—said set of instructions being executable to find said multicast address by:~~

~~a) obtaining a list of receiver identifiers, said list corresponding to~~

~~the set of recipients to which said data block is to be sent; and~~

~~b) examining said one or more directories to find a multicast~~

~~address corresponding to the list of receiver identifiers obtained in step a).~~

10. (original) A transmitter according to claim 9 wherein:

said transmitter further has access to type data listing data block type identifiers, and a list of recipient identifiers for each data block type identifier; and

said set of instructions being further executable to obtain said list of receiver identifiers by:

a) finding a type identifier associated with said data block; and

b) examining said type data to find a list of receiver identifiers

associated with said type identifier.

11. (previously presented) A program storage device readable by a processing apparatus, said device embodying a program of instructions executable

by the processing apparatus to perform method steps for transmitting a data block over a network to a set of recipients selected from a plurality of receivers, said method steps comprising steps according to claim 1.

12. (previously presented) A computer program comprising computer program code adapted to perform the method steps of claim 1 when said program is executed by a computer.